

1ST QUARTER 2009

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Scott Countians Against Drugs Anti-Drug Bookmark Contest By Janie Wechman

Never underestimate the creativity and insight of young people! This is what Scott Countians Against Drugs has learned over the past five years from our Anti-drug Bookmark Contest. Our youth continue to create colorful, original, and insightful anti-drug messages for their bookmarks and we are always delighted to see what they have produced. The students are always very excited at the prospect of having their bookmark printed and distributed throughout the county.

Our contest is conducted in Georgetown, Scott County. It is offered as an activity connected to Red Ribbon Week. We have three categories in the contest: Kindergarten through grade 2, grade 3 through 5, and grades 6 through 8. The entry form is emailed or sent to the schools and students have the option of returning their entries through their school or mailing their entries to us. The contest is very popular among the students. We had 796 entries this year. Our biggest year ever was last year when we had 988 entries.

A panel of community leaders selects a winner and a runner-up in each category. They also have the option of selecting designs to receive Super Honorable Mention and Honorable Mention certificates. The winner receives \$25 and a plaque and the runner up receives a plaque. Our plaques are unique because the bookmark design is photoengraved in full color on the plaque, creating a permanent record of their design.

The six winning designs are then printed in full color on three different bookmarks with a design on the front and back. Each school in the district receives a supply of the printed bookmarks for their school library. We also provide them to the public library and at other others.





Nicholas Countians for a Safe and Drug-Free Community Host a Town Hall Meeting

Ву

Jessica Heun Moore, M.S., Bluegrass Regional Prevention Center

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Last fiscal year the coalition hosted a town hall meeting and decided to make this year's meeting more youth focused. Local elementary school students created and performed a skit entitled "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf" in which the wolf was a chronic tobacco user and he outlined the effects of his tobacco use on his health. Immediately following the youth skit, Dr. Richard Clayton, founder of the Cooper-Clayton smoking cessation method, spoke to the attendees about the effects of tobacco use while utilizing local tobacco data. The event received favorable reviews from those in attendance.

The coalition was able to host this event due to a grant received from the SPF/SIG Tobacco Mini-Grant from the state. They have completed various endeavors as a result of these funds, including a media campaign, the implementation of the Tobacco Education Group classes in the high school for school policy offenders, in addition to national tobacco trainings for the coalition, just to name a few. For more information about the coalition's efforts contact Melissa Hill at mmhill@bluegrass.org

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Looking for a "Champion"

By

Amy Jeffers, Director

Pathways Regional Prevention Center

As we work in communities, we often look for a "Champion", someone at the local level to be the voice and face for an issue. Often when we say the word "champion", people may assume we are talking about a winner in sports. And, as everyone knows, the folks of Kentucky take their sports and winning very seriously. However, the word "Champion" has another meaning that is even more important and more valuable to our communities and our state. Webster's Dictionary defines a "Champion" as a warrior or fighter, an advocate or defender, or one that does battle for another's rights or honor. As we tackle substance abuse in communities, we are looking for our fighters, our advocates, and the ones that are willing to dedicate themselves to the future and safety of our youth. Through our Champions for a Drug Free Kentucky coalitions, we have found our local "Champions" and they are making a difference in their communities.

Are "Champions" born or can they be cultivated? I believe it's a combination of both. Everyone has the capacity to be passionate about something and when that energy is focused in a specific direction people can accomplish great things. Through involvement in our Champions coalitions, many individuals have received the education, networking and training to focus their passion and energy on substance abuse prevention. Often when we begin to talk about substance abuse in communities, there is a feeling that the issue is "too overwhelming" to address. However, being part of a Champions coalition and learning about the science of prevention, individuals begin to believe they can tackle the drug problem and make a difference in their communities. They become "Champions."

When I think about a "Champion" for substance abuse prevention, I think about Rene White, a member of the Menifee County Champions Coalition. Rene was a parent volunteer working in the school system when she started attending Champions Continued next page 4

meetings. She was drawn to the group because she recognized that everyone is touched by the consequences of substance abuse and she cared deeply about her youth in her community. When the coalition talked about implementing curriculum in the schools, Rene was the first to volunteer to be an instructor despite already having a job. She even asked her employer to adjust her schedule in order to be able to teach curriculum two days a week. Rene became passionate about teaching kids about substance abuse prevention and she has become a fixture in Menifee County schools.

For five years, Rene has implemented Project Northland in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades and Life Skills in the fourth and fifth grades. She has implemented TEG/TAP (Tobacco Education Group/Tobacco Awareness Program) in the middle school and high school. When Rene expressed an interest in advanced training to better meet the needs of some of the high school students, we recommended the Prime for Life curriculum. Rene received the training and has implemented that program in the middle and high school. Last year, Rene took it upon herself to organize a parent event around the prevention curriculums. She was so excited about the work the students had done during the Project Northland curriculum that she wanted to share it with the community. This little "parent night" grew into a community wide event that included local law enforcement, community agencies, local businesses and the media. This event made such an impact that the following day individuals and local agencies were asking her if they could be part of the event the next year. People have been calling her every month since last year's event to discuss planning for the Spring 2009 event.

It was not part of her plan, but Rene has become the substance abuse fighter and prevention advocate in her community—a "Champion." She often jokes that she can't "shut it off" when it comes to talking about substance abuse prevention (and her husband would agree)! Whether she is in the grocery store, at the post office, at her job or in the school system, she is sharing the prevention message. She is a "Champion" but not that kind that has a shelf full of trophies. But, I am confident, that there are lives that have been influenced and/or changed for the better because of what Rene White has done. Does your coalition have any born "Champions?" If so, you are fortunate. Are you cultivating "Champions?" If so, you are smart. Either way, we need "Champions" because they are the heart of our coalitions and the work we do and make our communities a better place to live.



The application for FY 10 Champions Funding will be available online on May 4th! To apply, you must coordinate with your Regional Prevention Center.



A Spoonful of Prevention

A spoonful of prevention goes a long, long way Add a dash of statistics to make someone's day A cup of caution served with a smile Makes a slice of collaboration, let's chat for a while!



Prevention and cooking? Absolutely, the two work well together! Just ask Cathy Williams (pictured right), Adanta Regional Prevention Center Prevention Specialist, and Rhonda Parker (pictured left), Campbellsville/Taylor County Anti-Drug Coalition, Drug-Free Communities Support Program. The two recently teamed up with Ed McGuire's community hit program, "What's Cooking Neighbor?" on WLCU T.V., a local T.V. station owned and operated by Campbellsville University.

While on air the duo prepared Cathy's Cranberry Chicken Rice recipe while mixing in tidbits of prevention from the "As You Age" program being implemented by Adanta RPC and Campbellsville/Taylor County Anti-Drug Coalition. "As You Age" targets adults over 55 years of age, providing information on prescription drug safety, storage and disposal.

According to McGuire and Parker there's been a lot of interest generated due to the show. Plans are underway for a sequel, but as for now the future recipe is being held under strict security. We WILL let you in on this secret ingredient – COLLABORATION! For information on Campbellsville/Taylor County Anti-Drug Coalition and a link to this "What's Cooking Neighbor" show, visit www.ctccoalition.com or call 270-469-5753 or Adanta Regional Prevention Center at 606-679-9425.

Greetings! It's been an exciting, busy time in Grants Management these last few months!

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Grants Management Branch has some upcoming solicitations potential applicants should be aware of. On April 20, 2009, the ARRA Justice Assistance Grant (\$15 Million) competitive application will open in our electronic grants management system. And, later this summer, competitive applications for ARRA victims of Crimes Act (\$700,000) and Violence Against Women Act (\$2 Million) will become available. Champions Coalitions will likely be most interested in the Justice Assistance Grant application to support their activities and mission. Allowable funding areas include: law enforcement,; prosecution and court; prevention and education; corrections and community corrections; drug treatment and enforcement; planning, evaluation, and technology; and crime victims and witness programs.

The Cabinet's funding priority for these funds remains substance abuse, ranging from prevention to intervention to law enforcement programs. Please see GMB's webpage for the Governor's recent press release and updates as they become available, http://www.justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb. ARRA JAG applications will be due May 29, 2009, and must be submitted via GMBs electronic grants management system.

A little closer to home: Champions grants for the 2009-2010 school year will open for application approximately May 4, 2009, with submission due June 12, 2009. After converting to the electronic grants management system last year, the applications will remain very similar, with some changes for simplification and conformance with federal regulations.

With all that's going on right now in the grants world, we know things can get confusing. If we can assist, please don't hesitate to contact us. We want to support Champions' important work, and hope that these new funds will open many new opportunities for local coalitions.

Branch Manager

Grants Management Branch
Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

Tanja L. Dehnson

No Fooling—April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Slang: Booze, Sauce, Brews, Brewskis, Hooch, Hard Stuff, Juice

Fact: Whatever you call it, alcohol affects your brain. Drinking alcohol leads to a loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision, memory lapses, and even blackouts.

Fact: Alcohol affects your body. Alcohol can damage every organ in your body. It is absorbed directly into your bloodstream and can increase your risk for a variety of life-threatening diseases, including cancer.

Fact: Alcohol affects your self-control. Alcohol depresses your central nervous system, lowers your inhibitions, and impairs your judgment. Drinking can lead to risky behaviors, such as driving when you shouldn't or having unprotected sex.

Fact: Alcohol can kill you. Drinking large amounts of alcohol at one time or very rapidly can cause alcohol poisoning, which can lead to coma or even death. Driving and drinking also can be deadly.

Fact: Alcohol can hurt you—even if you are not the one drinking. If you're around people who are drinking, you have an increased risk of being seriously injured, involved in car crashes, or affected by violence. At the very least, you may have to deal with people who are sick, out of control, or unable to take care of themselves.

If you have a drinking problem or if you suspect a friend has a drinking problem, get more information and referrals for help by calling the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 800-729-6686.



LISTEN UP!

CHECK OUT THE UNDERAGE DRINKING PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS PROVIDED BY THE CAMPBELLSVILLE/
TAYLOR COUNTY CHAMPIONS!

http://justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb/champions.htm

Researcher Says: Prevention Saves Big Dollars!

Reprint from Iowa State University News Service

Two lowa State University researchers have given communities worldwide good reason to implement substance abuse prevention programs. They're economically beneficial, with a nearly \$10 return for every dollar invested in prevention.

Richard Spoth, director of the Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute (PPSI) at Iowa State, and Max Guyll, ISU assistant professor of psychology, presented that message last month to substance abuse experts representing approximately 100 countries at a conference in Vienna, Austria, cosponsored by the United National Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization.

"The primary objective of the conference was to present the state of the art on translating evidence-based prevention and treatment into practice—to suggest effective strategies for demand reduction (in substance abuse)," Spoth said.

"We showed how prevention can be particularly economically beneficial," he said. "The presentation began by reviewing the evidence on the cost effectiveness and the return on the investment — or cost benefits — of prevention programs. I also did a second presentation on the scientific advances and positive outcomes of family-focused prevention, illustrated by our own research." The ISU researchers applied their own and national data to calculate both the cost effectiveness and cost benefit for two of PPSI's intervention programs — Iowa Strengthening Families Program (ISFP), which works on the family level to prevent substance abuse; and the Life Skills Training Program (LST), which was designed for school-based implementation. Spoth defines cost effectiveness as the cost to achieve a particular outcome — such as the prevention of an alcohol us disorder — while the cost benefit assesses whether savings generated by prevention are greater than costs spent on prevention.

The longitudinal "Project Family" study recruited 667 families through 33 lowa school districts. The researchers calculated that the ISFP intervention cost \$12,459 per disorder prevented, but resulted in a \$119,633 benefit to communities per alcohol disorder prevented—a \$9.60 return on each dollar invested. The "Capable Families and Youth" trail recruited 679 families through 36 lowa school districts. Researchers found that life skills training intervention cost \$4,921 per methamphetamine use case prevented, but produced a \$130,013 employer benefit per methamphetamine user prevented—a \$9.98 return on each dollar invested.

"Effective and efficient prevention promises to save possibly billons of dollars per year, provided we can learn how to effectively implement it on a larger scale," Spoth told the conference. The complete article can be found at:

http://www.ppsi.iastate.edu/press/vienna.htm

The KRCC Regional Prevention Center

Presents

"The Ice That Burns"

Community Strategies for Combating Methamphetamine



Dates: April 13 & 14, 2009

Where: The Old Fire Station Jackson, KY

Time: 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. First day 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Second day



With Special Trainers

Mr. Terry Stinson, MS, CPP, ICPSState Trainer
Kentucky Methamphetamine Prevention
Enhancement Site, Owensboro, KY

Mr. Gary W. Hall, M.Ed., CPP, ICPS Coordinator Methamphetamine Prevention Enhancement Site, Owensboro, KY

What is the Training?

"**The Ice That Burns"** is a community based training developed by the Kentucky Methamphetamine Prevention Enhancement Site . This workshop will help equip all sectors to use the best strategies for reducing methamphetamine related problems in our local communities.

Who should attend?

Members from community coalitions such as the Drug Endangered Child Coalitions, Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky, ASAP Local Board Members, Educators, Farmers, Farm Suppliers, Insurance Agents, Law Enforcement officers, Drug Court staff, Judicial, Faith-Based Leaders, Social Services, Retailers, Pharmacists and Prevention Professionals.

Registration?

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. Program Course 9:30 a.m. to 430 p.m. (Lunch on your own)

Seating is Limited! Please register no later than **April 10, 2009 by 4:30 p.m.** You may register by e-mail at krccrpc@yahoo.com or by calling the Regional Prevention Center at **(606) 436-4124 or (866) 213-8739.**





Sponsored by

KRCC Regional Prevention Center, Kentucky's Commonwealth Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, Kentucky Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Kentucky Methamphetamine Prevention Enhancement Site, and RiverValley Behavioral Health Regional Prevention Center.

What's With the Green Dot?

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Visualize for a moment that unforgettable image of small red-dots spreading across a computer generated map of the US, symbolizing the spread of some terrible epidemic – with each tiny red dot representing an individual case. With disturbing speed, the three or four single dots multiply and spread until the whole map emits a red glow comprised of a zillion tiny dots.

Now Imagine a Map of Kentucky Each red dot on this map represents an act of power-based personal violence (interpersonal violence, sexual violence, child abuse or stalking) – or a choice to tolerate, justify or perpetuate this violence. A red dot is a rape – a red dot is a hit – a red dot is a threat – a red dot is a" blame the victim" statement – a red dot is an individual choice to do nothing in the face of a high risk situation. Power-based personal violence in Kentucky is not a huge, solid mass that can simply be removed with one swift action or policy. Rather, it is the accumulation of individual decisions, moments, values, and actions made by the men and women from every corner of our state – from the most rural part of

Eastern Kentucky to the Capitol in Frankfort. It's hard to know exactly how many red dots are on our map at any given moment – but we do know there have been enough red dots to create a culture that sustains a rate of 36.5% of Kentucky women becoming victims of interpersonal violence during their lifetimes and 61,176 reports of child abuse in a year's time.

Now imagine adding a green dot in the middle of all those red dots on our Kentucky map. Imagine that a green dot is any behavior, choice, word, or attitude that promotes safety for all our citizens and communicates utter intolerance for violence. A green dot is pulling a friend out of a high-risk situation – a green dot is responding to a victim blaming statement with words of support—a green dot is donating a few dollars to your local center—a green dot is displaying an awareness poster in your store or office—a green dot is noticing a change in a child's behavior and making a referral—a green dot is striking up a conversation with a friend or family member about how much this issue matters to you. A green dot is simply your individual choice at any given moment to make our state safer.

How many green dots will it take to begin reducing power-based personal violence in our state? How many of us need to add 2 or 3 or 7 or 50 dots to this map to begin to make a difference and begin to outshine and displace those red dots? We cannot know the exact number, but we do know this: if most of us choose inaction—if most of us choose to close our eyes to this issue—if most of us choose apathy and indifference—then the red dots stand! If we do not begin replacing moments of violence and victim blaming with moments of support and safety, then we will surely continue to have more than 1 in 3 women and countless children become victims of violence. That is not OK. That must not be OK with any of us.

For more information contact Phyllis Millspaugh, Division of Violence Prevention Resources Department of Community Based Services at Phyllis.Millspaugh@ky.gov



MEN AND TOBACCO

Wednesday • May 13, 2009 • 8AM-4:30PM Louisville Marriott East • Louisville, Ky.

A one-day conference focusing on the health consequences of tobacco use in men.

Breakout sessions will include SNUS as Harm Reduction, SYNAR/ Compliance Checks, and New Tobacco Products.

Keynote speakers include:

- Michael Bousanna, II, M.D., Director, Thoracic Surgery, James Graham Brown Cancer Center and founder of "Drive Cancer Out"
- + Paul Turner, Director, North Carolina Spit Tobacco Education Program

Watch for registration details and plan to attend!

Application is being made for Nursing and CHES Continuing Education Units (CEU's).

Cabinet for Health and Family Services - Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program

Champions Chatter is a publication of Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky and the Grants Management Branch, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. The purpose of Champions Chatter is to disseminate and share information regarding the work of our many coalition volunteers and Regional Prevention Center staff in Kentucky communities.

The mission of Champions is "to promote the prevention of the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and promote the reduction of violence in Kentucky schools and communities."

Sandra Harston is the statewide coordinator for Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky. To submit articles for *Champions Chatter* or for more information regarding Champions contact her at:

SandraK.Harston@ky.gov 502-564-8294 http://www.justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb/

"That is the true genius of America, a faith in the simple dreams of its people, the insistence on small miracles."

President Barack Obama



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The Cabinet's funding priority for these funds remains substance abuse, ranging from prevention to intervention to law enforcement programs. Please see GMB's webpage for the Governor's recent press release and updates as they become available, http://www.justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb. ARRA JAG applications will be due May 29, 2009, and must be submitted via GMBs electronic grants management system.

A little closer to home: Champions grants for the 2009-2010 school year will open for application approximately May 4, 2009, with submission due June 12, 2009. After converting to the electronic grants management system last year, the applications will remain very similar, with some changes for simplification and conformance with federal regulations.

With all that's going on right now in the grants world, we know things can get confusing. If we can assist, please don't hesitate to contact us. We want to support Champions' important work, and hope that these new funds will open many new opportunities for local coalitions.

Branch Manager

Grants Management Branch
Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

Tanja L. Dehnson

No Fooling—April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Slang: Booze, Sauce, Brews, Brewskis, Hooch, Hard Stuff, Juice

Fact: Whatever you call it, alcohol affects your brain. Drinking alcohol leads to a loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision, memory lapses, and even blackouts.

Fact: Alcohol affects your body. Alcohol can damage every organ in your body. It is absorbed directly into your bloodstream and can increase your risk for a variety of lifethreatening diseases, including cancer.

Fact: Alcohol affects your self-control. Alcohol depresses your central nervous system, lowers your inhibitions, and impairs your judgment. Drinking can lead to risky behaviors, such as driving when you shouldn't or having unprotected sex.

Fact: Alcohol can kill you. Drinking large amounts of alcohol at one time or very rapidly can cause alcohol poisoning, which can lead to coma or even death. Driving and drinking also can be deadly.

Fact: Alcohol can hurt you—even if you are not the one drinking. If you're around people who are drinking, you have an increased risk of being seriously injured, involved in car crashes, or affected by violence. At the very least, you may have to deal with people who are sick, out of control, or unable to take care of themselves.

If you have a drinking problem or if you suspect a friend has a drinking problem, get more information and referrals for help by calling the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 800-729-6686.



LISTEN UP!

CHECK OUT THE UNDERAGE DRINKING PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS PROVIDED BY THE CAMPBELLSVILLE/
TAYLOR COUNTY CHAMPIONS!

http://justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb/champions.htm

Researcher Says: Prevention Saves Big Dollars!

Reprint from Iowa State University News Service

Two lowa State University researchers have given communities worldwide good reason to implement substance abuse prevention programs. They're economically beneficial, with a nearly \$10 return for every dollar invested in prevention.

Richard Spoth, director of the Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute (PPSI) at Iowa State, and Max Guyll, ISU assistant professor of psychology, presented that message last month to substance abuse experts representing approximately 100 countries at a conference in Vienna, Austria, cosponsored by the United National Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization.

"The primary objective of the conference was to present the state of the art on translating evidence-based prevention and treatment into practice—to suggest effective strategies for demand reduction (in substance abuse)," Spoth said.

"We showed how prevention can be particularly economically beneficial," he said. "The presentation began by reviewing the evidence on the cost effectiveness and the return on the investment — or cost benefits — of prevention programs. I also did a second presentation on the scientific advances and positive outcomes of family-focused prevention, illustrated by our own research." The ISU researchers applied their own and national data to calculate both the cost effectiveness and cost benefit for two of PPSI's intervention programs — Iowa Strengthening Families Program (ISFP), which works on the family level to prevent substance abuse; and the Life Skills Training Program (LST), which was designed for school-based implementation. Spoth defines cost effectiveness as the cost to achieve a particular outcome — such as the prevention of an alcohol us disorder — while the cost benefit assesses whether savings generated by prevention are greater than costs spent on prevention.

The longitudinal "Project Family" study recruited 667 families through 33 lowa school districts. The researchers calculated that the ISFP intervention cost \$12,459 per disorder prevented, but resulted in a \$119,633 benefit to communities per alcohol disorder prevented—a \$9.60 return on each dollar invested. The "Capable Families and Youth" trail recruited 679 families through 36 lowa school districts. Researchers found that life skills training intervention cost \$4,921 per methamphetamine use case prevented, but produced a \$130,013 employer benefit per methamphetamine user prevented—a \$9.98 return on each dollar invested.

"Effective and efficient prevention promises to save possibly billons of dollars per year, provided we can learn how to effectively implement it on a larger scale," Spoth told the conference. The complete article can be found at:

http://www.ppsi.iastate.edu/press/vienna.htm

The KRCC Regional Prevention Center

Presents

"The Ice That Burns"

Community Strategies for Combating Methamphetamine



Dates: April 13 & 14, 2009

Where: The Old Fire Station Jackson, KY

Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. First day 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Second day



With Special Trainers

Mr. Terry Stinson, MS, CPP, ICPSState Trainer
Kentucky Methamphetamine Prevention
Enhancement Site, Owensboro, KY

Mr. Gary W. Hall, M.Ed., CPP, ICPS Coordinator Methamphetamine Prevention Enhancement Site, Owensboro, KY

What is the Training?

"**The Ice That Burns"** is a community based training developed by the Kentucky Methamphetamine Prevention Enhancement Site . This workshop will help equip all sectors to use the best strategies for reducing methamphetamine related problems in our local communities.

Who should attend?

Members from community coalitions such as the Drug Endangered Child Coalitions, Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky, ASAP Local Board Members, Educators, Farmers, Farm Suppliers, Insurance Agents, Law Enforcement officers, Drug Court staff, Judicial, Faith-Based Leaders, Social Services, Retailers, Pharmacists and Prevention Professionals.

Registration?

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. Program Course 9:30 a.m. to 430 p.m. (Lunch on your own)

Seating is Limited! Please register no later than **April 10, 2009 by 4:30 p.m.** You may register by e-mail at krccrpc@yahoo.com or by calling the Regional Prevention Center at **(606) 436-4124 or (866) 213-8739.**





Sponsored by

KRCC Regional Prevention Center, Kentucky's Commonwealth Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, Kentucky Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Kentucky Methamphetamine Prevention Enhancement Site, and RiverValley Behavioral Health Regional Prevention Center.

What's With the Green Dot?

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Visualize for a moment that unforgettable image of small red-dots spreading across a computer generated map of the US, symbolizing the spread of some terrible epidemic – with each tiny red dot representing an individual case. With disturbing speed, the three or four single dots multiply and spread until the whole map emits a red glow comprised of a zillion tiny dots.

Now Imagine a Map of Kentucky Each red dot on this map represents an act of power-based personal violence (interpersonal violence, sexual violence, child abuse or stalking) – or a choice to tolerate, justify or perpetuate this violence. A red dot is a rape – a red dot is a hit – a red dot is a threat – a red dot is a" blame the victim" statement – a red dot is an individual choice to do nothing in the face of a high risk situation. Power-based personal violence in Kentucky is not a huge, solid mass that can simply be removed with one swift action or policy. Rather, it is the accumulation of individual decisions, moments, values, and actions made by the men and women from every corner of our state – from the most rural part of

Eastern Kentucky to the Capitol in Frankfort. It's hard to know exactly how many red dots are on our map at any given moment – but we do know there have been enough red dots to create a culture that sustains a rate of 36.5% of Kentucky women becoming victims of interpersonal violence during their lifetimes and 61,176 reports of child abuse in a year's time.

Now imagine adding a green dot in the middle of all those red dots on our Kentucky map. Imagine that a green dot is any behavior, choice, word, or attitude that promotes safety for all our citizens and communicates utter intolerance for violence. A green dot is pulling a friend out of a high-risk situation – a green dot is responding to a victim blaming statement with words of support—a green dot is donating a few dollars to your local center—a green dot is displaying an awareness poster in your store or office—a green dot is noticing a change in a child's behavior and making a referral—a green dot is striking up a conversation with a friend or family member about how much this issue matters to you. A green dot is simply your individual choice at any given moment to make our state safer.

How many green dots will it take to begin reducing power-based personal violence in our state? How many of us need to add 2 or 3 or 7 or 50 dots to this map to begin to make a difference and begin to outshine and displace those red dots? We cannot know the exact number, but we do know this: if most of us choose inaction—if most of us choose to close our eyes to this issue—if most of us choose apathy and indifference—then the red dots stand! If we do not begin replacing moments of violence and victim blaming with moments of support and safety, then we will surely continue to have more than 1 in 3 women and countless children become victims of violence. That is not OK. That must not be OK with any of us.

For more information contact Phyllis Millspaugh, Division of Violence Prevention Resources Department of Community Based Services at Phyllis.Millspaugh@ky.gov



MEN AND TOBACCO

Wednesday • May 13, 2009 • 8AM-4:30PM Louisville Marriott East • Louisville, Ky.

A one-day conference focusing on the health consequences of tobacco use in men.

Breakout sessions will include SNUS as Harm Reduction, SYNAR/ Compliance Checks, and New Tobacco Products.

Keynote speakers include:

- Michael Bousamra, II, M.D., Director, Thoracic Surgery, James Graham
 Brown Cancer Center and founder of "Drive Cancer Out"
- · Paul Turner, Director, North Carolina Spit Tobacco Education Program

Watch for registration details and plan to attend!

Application is being made for Nursing and CHES Continuing Education Units (CEU's).

Cabinet for Health and Family Services - Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program

Champions Chatter is a publication of Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky and the Grants Management Branch, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. The purpose of Champions Chatter is to disseminate and share information regarding the work of our many coalition volunteers and Regional Prevention Center staff in Kentucky communities.

The mission of Champions is "to promote the prevention of the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and promote the reduction of violence in Kentucky schools and communities."

Sandra Harston is the statewide coordinator for Champions for a Drug-Free Kentucky. To submit articles for *Champions Chatter* or for more information regarding Champions contact her at:

SandraK.Harston@ky.gov 502-564-8294 http://www.justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb/

"That is the true genius of America, a faith in the simple dreams of its people, the insistence on small miracles."

President Barack Obama